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MAILED

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Rainald Forbert, et al.
Application No. 09/447,030
Filed: November 22, 1999
Attorney Docket No. AE97/151US

DECISION ON PETITION
TO WITHDRAW
FROM RECORD

This is a decision on the Request to Withdraw as attorney or agent of record under 37 C.F.R. § 1.36(b), filed May 7, 2010.

The request is **NOT APPROVED**.

A grantable request to withdraw as attorney/agent of record must be signed by every attorney/agent seeking to withdraw or contain a clear indication that one attorney is signing on behalf of another/others.

The Office cannot approve the request at this time since the reasons provided do not meet any of the conditions under the mandatory or permissive categories enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40. Section 10.40 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulation states, "[a] practitioner shall not withdraw from employment in a proceeding before the Office without permission from the Office[.]" More specifically, 37 CFR 10.40 states, "[i]f paragraph (b) of this section is not applicable, a practitioner may not request permission to withdraw in matter pending before the Office unless such request or such withdrawal is" for one the permissive reasons listed in 37 CFR 10.40(c). The reasons set forth in the request, "Application handled by client, Cabot Corporation", does not meet any of the conditions set forth in 37 CFR 10.40.

Further, the request cannot be approved because the practitioner(s) requesting the withdrawal have not certified that they have (1) given reasonable notice to the client, prior to the expiration of the response, period that the practitioner(s) intend to withdraw from employment; (2) delivered to the client or duly authorized representative of the client papers and property (including funds) to which the client is entitled; and (3) notified the client of any responses that may be due and the time frame within which the client must respond. The failure to do so may

subject the practitioner to discipline. It is also noted that false certification may violate a practitioners' duty under 37 CFR 10.23(b)(4) and (b)(5).

The Office strongly encourages practitioner(s) requesting withdrawal from representation as practitioner of record in an application to review the record to determine whether he or she is, in fact, of record and how he or she was made of record. The practitioner(s) should determine whether he or she was appointed by naming each practitioner individually or through the use of a Customer Number. If the practitioner(s) were appointed by a specific designation, then the request should ask that each specified practitioner be withdrawn and should list each practitioner(s) in the Request. Similarly, if practitioner(s) was appointed by a Customer Number, the practitioner(s) should ensure that the correct number is provided in the Request. Additionally, as set forth in MPEP 403(I), the addition or deletion of a practitioner from the list of persons associated with a Customer Number should be done by way of a *Request for Customer Number Data Change* (PTO/SB/124) and not a *Request for Withdrawal As Attorney or Agent and Change of Correspondence Address* (PTO/SB/83).

The request cannot be approved because practitioners were appointed by customer number. Practitioners must withdraw in the same manner that they were appointed.

Accordingly, the request to withdraw from record cannot be approved because the request does not include an acceptable current correspondence address for future communications from the Office.

All future communications from the Office will continue to be directed to the above-listed address until otherwise notified by applicant.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to undersigned at 571-272-1642. All other inquiries concerning the examination or status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center.

/AMW/
April M. Wise
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions